

“Build You Up”

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Gray

Introduction

1. Acts 20:32.
2. As Paul is seemingly giving his farewell speech to the elder of Ephesus, there are several topics in which Paul is instructing them.
 - a. One, he is telling them that he “kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house (verse 20).
 - b. Two, he taught both Jews and Greeks the same message, “...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (verse 21).
 - c. Third, he is telling them what is befalling him verses 22-26).
 - d. Fourthly, he declares that he has “not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (verse 27).
 - e. Fifthly, in this discourse, he discloses their jobs and that problems will arise among them (verse 28-31).
 - f. Sixthly, he encourages them (verse 32).
 - g. Then lastly, he gives them personal information that they should have known and realized because he worked among them.
3. It is the sixth point that this article is about. They needed encouragement from time to time and so do we.

II Discussion

1. First, he commends them to God. Paul is turning them over to God. Paul will no longer be with them to guide them along the journey to eternity.
 - a. They will have to turn to God’s Word to direct their bark with the chart and compass. Psalm 119:105; 37:23-24; Proverbs 16:9
 - b. They are to cast all their cares upon Him; for He cares for you (2 Peter 5:7)
 - c. These elders are to be looking unto Jesus at all times for their strength and help (Hebrews 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-2).
2. Second, he commends them not only to God, but the Word of His Grace.
 - a. The words that Paul gave to the elders would not change. Matthew 5:18; Malachi 3:6; Revelation 22:13; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 13:8
 - b. So that when they read the word of God they would be able to know just what Paul was talking about and emphasizing. 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - c. Yet as time separated Paul from these elders they had the written word and could study it and know what was important and what they ought to be doing to be taking care of God’s flock. 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2
 - d. We have the same written Word. We can study it and learn from God’s Word just what He would have us to do. This Word, if we spend time with it, will encourage us when the storms of life come raging about us. When the way seems dark and drear and clouds are low, so low that they are blocking our view of God, we can turn to the pages of the Bible and find the Light of the World. This Word will then direct our steps along the strait and narrow path toward God no matter how dim the way seems (Psalm 119:105; Matthew 7:13-14). We must open up the pages; we must know, so that we can meditate (Psalm 1:1) day and night upon the truths that are contained therein.
 - e. This is the only way in which the Bible will help. To have a Bible and not know what it says is like not having a Bible at all.
3. Thirdly, let us notice that our passage says that the “word of his grace, is able to build us up.”

- a. This help is for those who keep it close to them and dive into it daily to partake of the nutrients. If a person fails to study their Bible, it is a locked source of help. We must open up the pages of God's Word, but just an open Bible will not help. It is the mind of God revealed to us. The Word of God tells us how to form ourselves into the image of God. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). The only way to know this is to study God's Word.
- 4. The Bible, God's Word, is also able to give us an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. 1 Peter 1:4
 - a. If we are going to get this inheritance we must be among them that are sanctified. Those that are sanctified are those who are "in Christ." Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:26-27; Revelation 1:5).
 - b. They are living a faithful life (Revelation 2:10).
 - c. Which means that they are studying and worshipping with the saints when the doors of the church building are opened: they want to meet with the saints; will meet with the saints; and doing their best to meet with the saints. Hebrews 10:25; John 4:24
 - d. The inheritance is more than words can describe. The inheritance is more than the mind can comprehend. We may know some of what it is about but we will not know of the depths until we can experience it for ourselves.
 - e. Yet there are some who will miss this inheritance (Matthew 7:21-23).

III Conclusion

1. Let us ever work on being built up with the Word of God.
2. Let us obtain this inheritance that is reserved for those who are sanctified.
3. Let us be among the sanctified.
4. If you are not then now is the time to be sanctified by believing, repenting, confessing, baptized.
5. Come now!

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